

activities of foreign nations such as China, and other non-OECD member countries.

Re-authorizing the Ex-Im Bank is a win-win-win.

It is a win for American workers, American businesses, and for the American taxpayers.

Not one single tax payer dollar will be needed to re-authorize the Ex-Im Bank.

In fact, since 2005, the Ex-Im Bank has generated more than \$3.4 billion in profits that it has returned to the Treasury, including \$700 million in Fiscal Year 2011.

With a less than 2 percent borrower default rate since its inception, the Ex-Im Bank is, and has been, a revenue generator for the American taxpayer.

The Ex-Im Bank is a prime example of government efficiency, and I for one am glad that we could come to a bipartisan compromise here in the House to re-authorize its charter, and I strongly urge my Senate colleagues to do the same.

Again Mr. Speaker, I support the re-authorizing of the Export-Import Bank and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### CONGRATULATING TONY JIMENEZ FOR BEING NAMED SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tony Jimenez, President & CEO of MicroTech, for being named the Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Council of America, or SBCA. MicroTech is an innovative technology company located in Vienna, Virginia started by Mr. Jimenez in 2004. It provides a host of technology services—including cyber security, systems integration, and cloud computing—to the commercial and public sectors, serving more than half-a-million daily technology users.

The SBCA is a nationwide nonprofit representing more than 20,000 businesses in the retail, service and manufacturing sectors. According to the SBCA, the criteria for the Small Business Person of the Year award includes, "dedication to small business in America as evidenced through promotion of a climate favorable to free enterprise, promotion of a positive image of American business through excellent business, civic or corporate leadership, [and] leadership in advancing the interest of small business in America."

During its short history MicroTech has won a number of awards from a host of organizations. Just a few of the many recognitions include: the Red Herring Global 100, which recognizes the most innovative tech companies in the world; the AFFIRM Award which recognizes the top 100 most influential Hispanics in IT; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Blue Ribbon Small Business;" and the CRN Number 1 Fastest Growing Solutions Provider.

In addition to being an award-winning business professional, Mr. Jimenez is dedicated to giving back to the community and he was named a Top CEO Philanthropist; received recognition from the Washington Business Journal for top-privately-held corporate philanthropist; and received the USHAA Bravo

Award for good business practices and philanthropy.

As my colleagues and I well know, small businesses are the economic engine of America, and MicroTech is a shining example. In its 8 years of existence Mr. Jimenez has created more than 400 jobs in 28 states. MicroTech is a shining success story and clearly demonstrates how a dedicated entrepreneur such as Mr. Jimenez can turn an idea into a successful business employing hundreds of Americans while serving as a tremendous corporate citizen in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the value that America's small business leaders bring to our economy, and join me in congratulating Tony Jimenez for being named the SBCA Small Business Person of the Year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed four votes the afternoon of May 10, 2012, which included rollcall votes 246, 247, 248 and 249.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 246, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5652.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 247, Representative RYAN's (WI-1) bill, H.R. 5652.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 248, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5326.

Lastly, I would have voted against rollcall vote 249, Representative WOLF's (VA-10) bill, H.R. 5326.

#### CELEBRATING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its 150th year of service. President Abraham Lincoln established USDA 150 years ago today in 1862.

American agriculture has been the second most productive sector of our nation's economy in the past decade. United States farm income is forecast at \$91.7 billion in 2012, the second highest on record. Agriculture now accounts for 1 in 12 jobs in the United States.

United States agricultural exports have been particularly strong. Exports reached record levels in fiscal year 2011 of \$137.4 billion. This level supported 1.15 million jobs here at home and contributed to a trade surplus of \$42.7 billion in agriculture. Agriculture is one of the few sectors that the United States has consistently had a trade surplus.

American farmers and ranchers provide us with 86 percent of the food we consume. This efficiency results in American consumers spending less than 10 percent of their dispos-

able incomes on food. By comparison, most European consumers spend more than double that, and in developing countries, the percentage is often as high as 50 percent.

USDA has played a vital role in the success of American agriculture. There is no doubt that without assistance from USDA American agriculture would not be as strong as it is today.

With the support of Congress, USDA provides a strong safety net for America's farmers and ranchers to ensure the United States continues to be the world's leader in agricultural production. USDA's crop insurance insures 264 million acres on about 500,000 farms. Crop insurance has helped more than 325,000 farmers who lost crops due to natural disasters over the past three years.

I want to highlight USDA's recent efforts in strengthening local and regional food systems. For many years, I have advocated and worked to provide federal assistance in supporting local food systems. Local food sales were valued at \$4.8 billion in 2008 and are expected to grow in the coming years. We need to harvest this economic power to help create American jobs and strengthen our local economies.

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF) initiative represents a good first step in using USDA's programs to improve local food systems. KYF provides a one-stop shop for information on more than 25 USDA programs that could assist in developing and improving local food systems, encourages much needed collaboration across agencies to reduce bureaucratic barriers in supporting and expanding marketing opportunities in local food markets, and works to connect farmers directly to consumers, which helps increase the availability of healthy nutritious foods.

KYF efforts have been hugely successful related to farmers' markets. We have seen a 54 percent increase in the number of farmers' markets since 2008. Over 2,400 farmers' markets and farm stands are now authorized to accept EBT, an increase of 51 percent over last year.

Mr. Speaker, while there are many challenges still facing American agriculture, there is no doubt in my mind that USDA is up to the task. From my perspective, the future success of USDA and American agriculture will depend on our support for local food systems and other emerging markets such as the specialty crop market.

I congratulate USDA for its 150th Anniversary and thank all the department's employees for their service.

#### HONORING JOHN F. MURPHY HOMES

#### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Murphy Homes of Auburn, Maine on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

John G. Murphy was one of Maine's foremost advocates on behalf of the developmentally disabled. In 1954, Mr. Murphy used his standing on the Lewiston Board of Finance to open the Garcelon School as an educational facility for mentally retarded children. After his passing in February of 1976, members of the Lewiston Auburn Association for